

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 8 and 15 are herein amended.

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- I. Claims 1-7 and 8-14, drawn to an apparatus and system for joining accessories to a panel on the interior of vehicles, classified in class 403, subclass 316.
- II. Claims 15-19, drawn to a method of forming fasteners and vehicle trim pieces for attachments to a vehicle, classified in class 29, subclass 159.

The Examiner further noted that should applicants elect the Group I invention, Applicant is required to further elect one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- 1a. Claims 1-7, drawn to an apparatus for joining accessories to panels on the interior of vehicles, classified in class 24, subclass 73 FT.
- 1b. Claims 8-14, drawn to system for fastening a trim piece to a vehicle, classified in class 403, subclass 316.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Invention I, drawn to Claims 1-7 and 8-14 and further as required by the restriction notice, within Invention I, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Invention 1a, Claims 1-7, with traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to remove the internal inconsistency of identifying both a system and an apparatus, as well as to identify the system joins an accessory to an interior panel of a vehicle, and therefore now recites in part "A system for joining an accessory to an interior panel of a vehicle, said system comprising." Claims 2-7 have therefore been amended to be consistent with amended Claim 1. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments to Claims 1-7 prior to further examination of these Claims.

Claim 8 has also been amended similar to Claim 1, and now recites in part "A system for joining an accessory to an interior panel of a vehicle." Applicants note both independent Claims 1 and 8 now recite "A system for joining an accessory to an interior panel of a vehicle", and therefore do not meet the criteria for restriction set forth in M.P.E.P. §803. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendment to Claim 8 and reconsider the restriction requirement of Claims 8-14.

Claim 15 has been amended to also be consistent with Claim 1, and now recites in part "A method for joining an accessory to an interior panel of a vehicle." It should not produce a serious burden on the Examiner to examine Claims 15-19 because a search for Claims 1-7 should identify common subject matter with Claims 15-19. See M.P.E.P. §803. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendment to Claim 15 and reconsider the restriction requirement of Claims 15-19.

The amendments to the Claims noted herein have not been made for patentability reasons or to limit these Claims based on any cited art. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement.


CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this Response is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: OCTOBER 28, 2005
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